# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA ROCK HILL DIVISION

)	C/A No. 0:18-2395-CMC-PJG
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This is a civil action filed by Petitioner Chenglong Tong. Under Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2) (D.S.C.), pretrial proceedings in this action have been referred to the assigned United States Magistrate Judge.

By order dated September 12, 2018, the court authorized service of process against the respondents, (ECF No. 6), and issued the summons (ECF No. 7). Petitioner returned a summons that has purportedly been executed, **but the returned summons does not appear to be the summons issued by the court as the summons form was not signed by the Clerk of Court.** (ECF No. 9.) The deadline for service under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) has since passed. <u>See Mendez v. Elliot</u>, 45 F.3d 75, 78–80 (4th Cir. 1995) (collecting cases).

Petitioner is granted an extension of thirty (30) days from the date this order is entered (plus three days for mail time) to serve the respondents with the proper summons form signed by the Clerk of Court (ECF No. 7) along with the Petition. Failure to perfect service may result in dismissal of this matter pursuant to Rule 4(m).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Petitioner may find helpful information about filing a lawsuit without counsel on the court's website <u>www.scd.uscourts.gov</u> under the "*Pro Se*" section.



## TO THE CLERK OF COURT:

The Office of the Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this order and the summons to Petitioner. The Petitioner will have thirty (30) days from the date this order is entered (plus three days for mail time) to perfect service on the respondents.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Paige J. Gossett

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

: Chousell

January 9, 2019 Columbia, South Carolina

Petitioner's attention is directed to the important warning on the next page.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ....PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

#### WARNING TO PRO SE PARTY OR NONPARTY FILERS

ALL DOCUMENTS THAT YOU FILE WITH THE COURT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON THE INTERNET THROUGH PACER (PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT ELECTRONIC RECORDS) AND THE COURT'S ELECTRONIC CASE FILING SYSTEM. CERTAIN PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN, OR SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM, ALL DOCUMENTS <u>BEFORE</u> YOU SUBMIT THE DOCUMENTS TO THE COURT FOR FILING.

Rule 5.2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for privacy protection of electronic or paper filings made with the court. Rule 5.2 applies to <u>ALL</u> documents submitted for filing, including pleadings, exhibits to pleadings, discovery responses, and any other document submitted by any party or nonparty for filing. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a party or nonparty filer should not put certain types of an individual's personal identifying information in documents submitted for filing to any United States District Court. If it is necessary to file a document that already contains personal identifying information, the personal identifying information should be "blacked out" or redacted prior to submitting the document to the Clerk of Court for filing. A person filing any document containing their own personal identifying information waives the protection of Rule 5.2(a) by filing the information without redaction and not under seal.

### 1. Personal information protected by Rule 5.2(a):

- (a) Social Security and Taxpayer identification numbers. If an individual's social security number or a taxpayer identification number must be included in a document, the filer may include only the last four digits of that number.
- **(b)** Names of Minor Children. If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, the filer may include only the initials of that child.
- (c) Dates of Birth. If an individual's date of birth must be included in a document, the filer may include only the year of birth.
- **(d) Financial Account Numbers.** If financial account numbers are relevant, the filer may include only the last four digits of these numbers.
- 2. Protection of other sensitive personal information such as driver's license numbers and alien registration numbers may be sought under Rule 5.2(d) (filings made under seal) and (e) (protective orders).